

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020120 Total estimated cost: EUR 11 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 11 000 000
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.

1.2 Summary of the Action

Guinea-Bissau is marked by a chronic political instability and scarcity of funds leading to a health system that is unable to provide basic healthcare services. The proposed Action aims to enhance the efficiency, quality and accountability of the national health system towards the realisation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It will notably strengthen health system's leadership and governance and foster evidence-informed decision-making in the health sector, including nutrition, it will provide equitable access to essential medical products, especially in the primary health care, and it will enhance the equitable distribution of efficient healthcare workers, especially at Primary Health Care (PHC) level, to facilitate the access of disadvantaged segments of population to quality health care.

The country's health system faces persistent challenges related to low public spending, poor infrastructure, inadequate supply and distribution of health workers, inadequate clinical and managerial training systems, malfunctioning referral system, non-operational health-information systems, weak governance and inadequate management capacity. In this context of fragility, the most critical areas addressed by the Action are : i) capacity of the Ministry of Health (MoH) to collect and analyse data for needs assessment, risks anticipation and sound management of resources for the health system, ii) management of the entire medical products supply chain, which jeopardises the availability of essential medicines especially for the most vulnerable populations and in PHC services, and iii) availability in quantity, rational allocation and appropriate qualification of healthcare human resources.

The Action will therefore reinforce capacities of the Ministry of Health at national and subnational level on planning, budgeting, supervision and management of health facilities and resources, and will strengthen public health institutions capacity for an efficient and resilient health information system, with a specific focus on public health and nutrition surveillance follow-up mechanisms. It will also enhance institutional capacities and regulatory framework to ensure equitable access to medicines and health products and technologies, as well as distribution system of pharmaceuticals, with backup mechanisms to ensure medicine supplies, storage, and distribution in case of crisis. It will finally strengthen capacities of MoH and School of Public health to ensure updated health workforce skills, and will contribute to an efficient health workforce. The action will ensure that it tracks and responds to the needs of all vulnerable populations including but not exclusive to: children, adolescent girls, women, people living with disabilities, people living in rural areas or small islands with limited connectivity, people living with chronic co-morbidities, more at risk to environmental and climatologic risks.

The Action will build on previous and ongoing European Union (EU) funded initiatives in the health sector (Ianda Guiné Saúde and PIMI), scaling the results obtained through an operational approach mainly implemented by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), by strengthening institutional capacities of public health sector. It will also complement the regional programme to support National Public Health Institutes in Africa and other global initiatives, such as the UHC Partnership, one of WHO's largest initiatives on international cooperation for universal health coverage and primary health care of which the EU is the biggest funder.

The Action is closely coordinated with EU's and other international partners' efforts in the field of public financial management (PFM) and public administration reform. In particular, under the Economic Governance project, which implementation will start by end of 2024, the Action will contribute to improving the budgetary process with a focus on key Ministers such as health and education, while pushing a broader PFM agenda. There will also be a close coordination with World Bank projects and IMF technical assistance in the fields of domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) and of human resource management in the public sector, both key issues for sustainability.

The Action is aligned with the Global Gateway strategy, which among others aims at boosting secure digital connections and strengthen health systems across the world. Likewise, the Action is aligned with the EU Gender